

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE THE APPLICATION OF)
)
 Christopher J. Stokes)
)
 SERIAL NO:)
)
 FILED:)
)
 FOR: Loan Modeller Method and)
 Apparatus)



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.97-1.98, submitted herewith is Form PTO-1449 along with copies of the references identified therein. Also submitted herewith is a copy of the British search report which was received by the Applicant on July 15, 2000 and which constitutes the first knowledge of the applicant of the cited references. This Information Disclosure Statement is therefore being timely filed and no fee is required.

The six "X category" references all show loan calculation tools. However, none of them describes or suggests any of the following features mentioned in the present Claim 1:

- low-start or fast-start loans,
- regularly increasing repayments,
- reduced repayments for a specified period,
- variable repayments over different months of the year.

Several of the references mention balloon payments. A balloon mortgage is one that involves repayments over a fixed period, followed by final repayment in full at the end of the period. The final payment is the "balloon" payment. This is clearly different from any of the features of Claim 1 listed above.

The LeaseCalculator!Plus v2.1 reference mentions an Accelerated Payment Calculator. This allows the user to calculate the effect of increasing mortgage repayments by a specified amount after a specified time, e.g. increase by \$200 after 48 months. This is clearly different from any of the features of Claim 1 listed above. In particular, it is clearly not the same as the "regularly increasing payments" option, since it merely specifies a single increase in repayments.

The AmortizeIT! v2.1 reference also mentions accelerated payments, similar to LeaseCalculator!Plus v2.1. Again, this is clearly different from any of the features of Claim 1 listed above.

The SolveIt! v500a reference provides facilities to "make extra payments and/or skip payments". Again, this is clearly different from any of the features of Claim 1 listed above.

The Mortgage Designer v4.2 reference mentions "uneven first payment intervals". This is a facility to allow the customer to vary the interval before starting to repay the loan - e.g. one month or three weeks after the loan is drawn. This is clearly different from any of the features of Claim 1 listed above.

The mortgagecentre.net reference provides facilities for an extra payment per month and a lump sum payment at a specified date. Once again, this is clearly different from any of the features of Claim 1 listed above.

Hence, despite the British Patent Office's "X" categorization of these six references, it is believed that the invention as claimed

in the present claims is clearly patentably distinguished from these references.

It is also noted that the original publication dates of these six references are not clear, since they are all drawn from Websites. Hence, it is questionable whether all of these references actually count as prior art. In particular, it would appear that SolveIT!v5.00 was released around April 2000, which is later than the claimed priority date of the present application, and hence this reference is clearly not prior art.

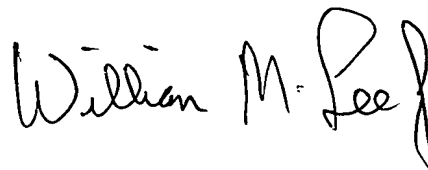
The remaining two references (US 5058009 and JP 7065070 - English language abstract) were cited merely as category A documents, and it is believed that these references, while of technological background interest, are not relevant to the present invention.

In summary, it is submitted that the claims of this application are clearly patentable over the references.

Examination of the application on its merits is awaited.

Date: 9/19/00

Respectfully Submitted



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